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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,898	11/11/2003	Cheng-Hsing Wu	1552AAB	9464

7590  
Cheng Hsing Wu  
P. O. Box 10-69  
Chong Ho  
Taipei, 235  
TAIWAN

03/29/2007

EXAMINER

SUTHAR, RISHI S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/29/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/712,898	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Rishi Suthar	<b>Art Unit</b> 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20031111</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westphalen (US 3,812,509) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Westphalen teaches in Figs. 5, 7 and 10 a camera comprising a camera housing (26), an auxiliary lens (66), and a means (30) for attaching said auxiliary lens to said camera housing. Westphalen does not teach that the camera is a digital camera.

Applicant admits in page two of the specification that digital cameras are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the universal invention of Westphalen on a digital camera with a tripod mounting screw hole since digital cameras have several advantages over film cameras, such as ease of processing for the photographer.

The combination of Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art teaches said attaching means includes a bracket attachable to said camera housing, for supporting said auxiliary lens in front of an optical device of said camera housing; wherein said bracket includes a base plate (28) attachable to said camera housing, and a panel (60) extended from said base plate to support said auxiliary lens; wherein said camera

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housing includes a screw hole formed therein, said base plate includes an orifice formed therein (see Fig. 5), and a fastener (44) is engageable through said orifice of said base plate, and engageable with said screw hole of said camera housing, to secure said bracket to said camera housing; wherein said fastener includes a screw hole formed therein (56), for attaching to a tripod; wherein said panel of said bracket includes an opening formed therein, and an inner thread (68) formed therein for threading to said auxiliary lens; further comprising a barrel (64) attachable to said panel, to support said auxiliary lens.

3. Claims 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art as applied to claims 1-4 above, and further in view of Ueda et al. (US 4,530,580).

Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art teach the invention as claimed above, but do not expressly disclose a retaining ring attached to the fastener. Ueda et al. teaches a camera attachment device with a fastener to mount a base plate to the conventional tripod screw hole of a camera wherein the fastener includes a retaining ring (4) attached to the fastener (2) and engagable to the base plate, and wherein the fastener includes a stem and said retaining ring engaged onto the stem of the fastener. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a fastener and retaining ring as taught by Ueda et al. in the invention of Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art in order to prevent removal of the tripod screw from the bracket.

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4. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art as applied to claims 1-4 above, and further in view of Benz (US 5,053,794).

Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art teach the invention as claimed above, as well as an outer thread on the barrel, but do not expressly disclose the barrel has an inner thread for engaging the auxiliary lens. Benz teaches in Fig. 1 a barrel attachable to a panel for holding an auxiliary lens, wherein the barrel includes an outer thread (23, 24) for attaching to a panel, and an inner thread (13) for engaging with an auxiliary lens. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the universal barrel as taught by Benz in the invention of Westphalen and Applicant's admitted prior art in order to achieve the desired result of attaching a wide variety of optical equipment to a camera quickly and easily.

### ***Telephone Numbers***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rishi Suthar whose telephone number is 571-272-8456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on 571-272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rishi Suthar  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2851

RS  
March 26, 2007

**William Perkey**  
**Primary Examiner**